

# Committee on Government Reform

Tom Davis, Chairman



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Government Reform Committee to Review Reauthorization of Drug Control Policy Legislation *Mark-Up of Drug Czar and Project BioShield Bills to Follow***

**What:** Government Reform Committee legislative hearing on H.R. 2086, "The Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2003"; and business meeting to mark up H.R. 2086 and H.R. 2122, "The Project BioShield Act of 2003", and other business.

**When:** Thursday, May 22, 2003, 10 a.m.

**Where:** Room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building

**Background on H.R. 2086, "The Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2003" legislative hearing:**

The current authorization for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) expires on September 30, 2003. The office was originally created in 1988 and is the Administration's primary source for counter-drug policy development and program oversight. ONDCP's current statutory mission is twofold: 1) to guide the Nation's efforts to both reduce the use, manufacturing, and trafficking of illicit drugs, and 2) to reduce the associated crime, violence, and health consequences of illicit drug use.

ONDCP advises the President on national and international drug control policies and strategies, formulates the National Drug Control Strategy, and works to ensure the effective coordination of drug programs by the National Drug Control Program agencies.

The ONDCP Director serves as the primary spokesman on drug policy issues for the President. His authority is most notably manifested on an annual basis in two ways: certification of budget requests for federal drug control agencies, and the issuance of the

National Drug Control Strategy, which is required by statute. The Director reviews the annual budget requests for each federal department and agency charged with implementing a federal drug control program and is empowered to propose funding levels and initiatives the Director believes are sufficient. Additionally, the National Drug Control Strategy is submitted to Congress annually and directs the Nation's anti-drug efforts and establishes a program, a budget, and guidelines for cooperation among Federal, state, and local entities. The document contains a number of mandated statistics and assessments related to drug policy and serves as a strategic review of federal programs by evaluating their coordination and effectiveness.

ONDCP also administers approximately \$500 million in programs, including: the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, which provides assistance for state and local law enforcement to work with federal agencies to stop drug traffic in critical areas of the country, the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign that supports the airing of anti-drug television and print ads, the Drug-Free Communities grant program, and the Counter Drug Technology Assessment Center (CTAC).

In the bill, the Committee aims to provide the best possible support for the Administration and Director Walters in implementing the Administration's strategy. **We have also considered where we might be able to streamline and reduce some outdated reporting and structural requirements that are required by current law in order to improve the efficiency of ONDCP. The Committee also gave significant attention to reforms of the Media Campaign and the HIDTA program to ensure that they are effective.** The Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources Subcommittee hearings have reviewed areas suggesting that both of these programs have grown in ways that were not originally intended. **We want to ensure that we keep them accountable and dedicated to their core purposes.**

**The Committee will hear testimony from the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, John P. Walters.**

**Following the hearing, the Committee will hold a business meeting to consider:**

- 1) **H.R. 2086, the "Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2003";**
- 2) **H.R. 2122, the "Project BioShield Act of 2003";**
- 3) H.R. 2087, the "Bob Hope American Patriot Award Act of 2003";
- 4) H. Con. Res. 162, honoring the City of Dayton, Ohio, for the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight;
- 5) H.R. 1465, designating a U.S. Post Office for General Charles Gabriel;
- 6) H.R. 1610, designating a U.S. Post Office for Walt Disney;
- 7) H. Res. 159, expressing sorrow on the death of Irma Rangel;
- 8) H. Res. 195, congratulating Sammy Sosa for his 500<sup>th</sup> homerun; and
- 9) H.R. 2030, designating a U.S. Post Office for Patsy Mink.

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